critical digest

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This Week

Simply Heavenly playing to sell-out houses since May 21 at 85th St Playhouse closed by Fire Dept. and Dept of Licenses. 12 safety violations and lack of proper theatre license reported on dance hall site in United Order of True Sisters Building. Play with music will move to another west side theatre latter this week.

Plays

Title of new Leonard Bernstein, Steve Sondheim, Arthur Laurents musical switched back to West Side Story ... Miss Lonelyhearts with Pat O'Brien and Fritz Weaver due Oct 11 ... Cat on a Hot Tin Roof may return to NY after Chicago run, opening July 29 at Coronet ... Musical version of film The Captain's Paradise to be directed by Jose Ferrer, due Feb 4... Betty Compton and Adolph Green to write book and lyrics for Gypsy to be presented in 1958 by David Merrick... John P. Marquand's "Life at Happy Knoll" to be made into musical by Sammy Cahn and Jimmy Van Heusen... Playwrights Co. in association with Dan Blum and Malcom Wells to present The Country Wife due Nov 15 at Adelphi with Julie Harris. This is same Restoration comedy currently revived Off-Broadway.

Players

Jo Sullivan returned to Most Happy Fella after vacation. Art Lund now on vacation, his role played by Jack Irwin... Kaye Lyder replaced Nancy Olsen, Tunnel of Love... Graham Jarvis and Richard Robbins added to The Egghead cast ... Basil Langton to direct Herman Wouk's Nature's Way.

Tickets

Theatre-Goers, Inc, ticket club, license suspended by License Commissioner O'Connell as "not financially responsible." This is third ticket club closed within the year.

Special Events

Plaque in memory of John Golden unveiled at The Lambs Club. Golden Fund in past two years has given grants of $40,000 to Lambs Relief Fund, New Dramatists Committee, NY Public Library, American Theatre Wing.

Calendar

The Merchant of Venice-Stratford, Conn 7/10. Third production in repertory with Katharine Hepburn, Alfred Drake. Opens Wed. matinee... Ever Since Paradise- Carnegie Recital Hall 7/11. Silver-Shapiro present J.B. Priestley play with Haila Stoddard, Whitfield Connor.

Theatre TV Notes

"Crescendo", an original 90 minute musical detailing history of US musicals, to be presented Sept 29 on CBS TV with Rex Harrison... "Irving Berlin Salute" due Nov 17 on NBC cancelled due to author's health... NY legit producers attended a demonstration of Closed Circuit Telecasting System, presented as possible solution to recovering production costs of flops.

Theatre Book Notes

Royalties of Yale University Press publication of O'Neill's Touch of the Poet given by his widow to Yale University Library for upkeep of O'Neill Collection there ... George Freedley, curator of NY Public Library Theatre Collection, finishing biography of Lunt and Fontanne.

Theatre Film Notes

New Song added to film version of "South Pacfic" by Rodgers and Hammerstein entitled " My Girl Back Home."

Children's Theatre

Hyde Park, NY, Playhouse, presenting two special children's shows each Fri. at 11 AM and 2 PM.

London

Most Happy Fella to be presented by Frank Loesser in London this spring ... Sam Wanamaker to re-open Pigalle Theatre Club, Liverpool.

Other Broadways

The Ticklish Acrobat by Robert Hivnor presented by San Francisco's Actors Workshop week-ends in July... Thornton' Wilder's Alcestiad presented in Zurich to enthusiastic reception... Coconut Grove Playhouse, Fla. may enlarge balcony to lure Broadway touring companies... Long Day's Journey Into Night completed sell-out week of performances in Paris.

Off Broadway

Roberta Stevenson replaced Wisa D'Orso, Kaleidoscope... Pert Kelton replaced Jane Connell, Georgia Brown replaced Jean Arnold, both in Three Penny Opera... Grania O'Malley replaced Anne Ives, 3 Synge Plays... Encore Players to present Bus Stop at St John's Hall, 225 Waverly Pl, July 12 ... Alex Cohen signed At the Drop of a Hat, London two man show, for his "Nine O'Clock Theatre" which will debut in Nov at small East side house, currently used as art film theatre.

Summer Playhouses

John Drew Theatre, East Hampton, NY, has NY box-office at 16 W 55, CI-1-1381... "Theatre Under the Stars" has midtown box-offices at 1680 Broadway and at corner of 48th St and 7th Ave... New summer theatre opened at Bushkill, Pa, Heather Hill Theatre, Mannert Hubert producer-direct.

Buff Cobb to portray 5 roles in La Ronde, Lakeside Theatre, NJ, she is also producer... Ed Begley to tour in Inherit the Wind starting Aug 26 at Saratoga Springs, NY... With Respect to Joey debuts July 22 at Westport, Conn with Martin Balsam, Frank Silvera, directed by Darren McGaven... Hilltop Theatre, Lutherville, Md. to return to original site next summer. ... Variety reports members of local Roman Catholic parish warned to boycott Litchfield, Conn. Theatre due to "objectionable" shows presented.

Strawhat Calendar

NY productions include---
Half in Earnest, new musical, at Binghamton, NY... The Primrose Path with Lillian Roth at Hyde Park

NJ---Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter with Marilyn Maxwell at Andover... Skin of Our Teeth at Princeton ... The Boy Friend at Spring Lake.

Conn---Roger the Sixth, new play with Dorothy Lamour, at Ivoryton.... What Every Woman Knows, new musical with Jeannie Carson, at Westport.

Theatre Conference

American Educational Theatre Association convention to be held in Boston Aug 25-27 with over 100 seminars on various theatre subjects.

Shakespearean Festival, Ontario, Opens

Fifth season opening of Shakespearean Festival, Stratford, Ontario, marked opening of new permanent theatre. Hamlet and Twelfth Night as plays each took second place in reviews by Atkinson, Times, and Kerr, Herald Tribune, to the new platform stage and the ingenious direction of Hamlet by Micheal Latham and Twelfth Night by Tyrone Guthrie.

Hamlet-7/1. featuring Christopher Plummer in title role is given a long, turbulent and finally arresting production summed Kerr. It takes both production and lead time to get started, but is worth it, he noted. Narrative approach, including many scenes usually omitted, has its limitations, fears Atkinson. It omits Hamlet's nobility, and no one except Frances Hyland as Opheilia has time for the glory of the poetry. Production, he concludes, does not encompass the spirit nor the grandeur of Hamlet.

Twelfth Night - 7/2. with Siobhan McKenna as Viola and Frances Hyland as Olivia and Douglas Rain as Malvolio was approved by both Kerr, Herald Tribune, and Atkinson, Times, as lively production though both had many major and minor complaints. Play is so long as presented and goes so speedily that actors do not have time to develop laughs, former commented. Undercurrent of ingrained sadness as contrast to the horseplay is Guthrie's most daring innovation. Though Atkinson, Times, felt poetic interludes got short shrift and some of the actors were hard to understand, he found it funny. Critic also found it formless, overextended and tone-deaf. Costumes by Tanya Moiseiwitsch are of Charles II period. and won praise from both critics.

Digests of Current NYC Theatre Reviews

Commedia Dell-Arte- Bleecker St 7/3. 1 con notice filed on Aurel Keating production by Adler, Times. Except for name there is no similarity between 16th Century Italian drama form and the current production. A single song and a dance by Joyce Anne Sidimus were only items that reviewer okayed in three ad-lib scenes presented by cast of ten. There should be a law against an Off-Broadway troupe borrowing the respected name of "Commedia dell-Arte", she concluded.

The Country Wife- Renata-144 Bleecker 6/26. 4 pro- Herald Tribune, Journal American, World Telegram & Sun, Women's Wear--and 2 Con- Times, Post- recorded for the revival of William Wycherley's Restoration farce presented and directed by Stephen Porter. Affirmative voters were diverse in their views ranging from an outright rave to mild approval. Frances Sternhagen and Arthur Malet were applauded by most, with wide range of opinion on other actors. Rave filed by McClain, Journal American, who recommended interesting and generally hilarious period piece without reservation. Dash, Women's Wear, also found comedy performed with style. Milder okays listed by Beckley, Herald Tribune, who thought it was an exhiliarating revival that could have been presented with more grace, and by Donnelly, WT &S, who billed it as not ideal but worthwhile for perserving enough of author's gritty brilliance. He did note that some of the secondary players were a bit pallid. Con side headed by Funke, Times, who feared that neither volume nor energy makes up for considerable style and wit in playing needed. Herridge, Post, panned show as merely one long bawdy joke which soon grows feeble. Porter's direction lacks the necessary finesse for such bawdiness.

BARD

IN

PARK

Romeo and Juliet- Central Park-Belvedere Lake 6/27 5 pro reviews filed for first of free traveling Shakespeare productions presented by Joseph Papp. Times, Herald Tribune, News, Post and World Telegram & Sun cheered enterprise of producer and talents of young cast. Production was presented from stage of trailer truck for four performances, and then will give other performances, all free, in the other boroughs. Latter in summer group will also present Macbeth and Two Gentlemen from Verona. Bryarly Lee and Stephen Joyce played the title roles and received milk praise. Stuart Vaugh, the director, shared top plaudits with producer Papp. A youthful, free flowing revival, concluded Funke, Times. In many respects, Kerr, Herald Tribune, rated it as the best production of the play he ever saw. It is emotionally intelligible. Shakespeare himself would have enjoyed the outdoor revival, bets Silver, News. MacDougall, World Telegram & Sun, did not that not all voices were audible, but she did praise it as a lively version. One of the best productions of Romeo and Juliet you are likely to find, stated Herridge, Post. Drama editor wished group could move into Park's "Theatre Under Stars" site.

THEATRE

RECORD

COMMENTS

"Wellsprings of Drama" by Caedmon Records presents "Quem Quaeritis" trope and a sample of a guild play, "The Deluge", "Robin Hood and Friar Tuck", and "Abraham and Isaac". Lask, Times, recommended disc for students of early drama.

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For Stage Struck Only

* This weekly NYC theatre newsletter digests--complete theatre news(pg 1) --reviews of all current openings(pg 2) --NYC critics suggestions on theatre books, records(pg 2). Plus comments by critics on theatre subjects (pg 3.) And complete business and critical data (pg 4.) Weekly summer issues cover summer scene in NYC and summer playhouses.

* $25 per year complete for 52 weekly issues. Includes free yearly spring back binder and free research service

MOST HAPPY FELLA Imperial $7.50	249 W 45 CO 5-2412	90% C- H. Tribune sole con voter 65% B- Cap $57-- $35 $45 $50 $41 $44 $42 $43
MY FAIR LADY Hellinger $8.05	1655 Bway PL 7-7064	100% C-Unanimous praise everybody 100% B- Cap $68--$68 $68 $68 $68 $68 $68 $68
NEW GIRL TOWN 46th St $9.20	226 W 46 CI 6-4271	80% C- 2 Con-Times, Trib-most pro Abbott 100% B- Cap $59--$59 $59 $59 $59 $59
NO TIME SGTS Alvin $5.75	149 W 52 CI 5-5226	100% C- Unanimous praise soldier comedy 75% B- Cap $38--$24 $26 $28 $22 closes 8/17
SEPARATE TABLES Music Box $5.75	239 W 45 CI 6-4636	100% C-Unanimous praise for Eng. twin-bill 50% B- Cap $31--$15 $22 $22 Closed 8/1-9/2
TUNNEL LOVE Royale $5.75	250 W 45 CI 6-8870	30% C- 3 2 Pro-H. Trib, News, Most panned scrit. 50% B- Cap $34--$16 $26 $28 $22 $30 $31
VISIT S. PLANET Booth $5.75	231 W 45 CI 6-5969	100% C- Okays mostly for Mayehoff-Ritchard 90% B- Cap $27--$23 $26 $24 $26 $26 $23

"RATINGS OF NYC CRITICS"

1956-57 season ratings of NYC drama critics on current Broadway shows by Critical Digest. % figures are percentage of pro votes in comparison to con votes by critics on current shows, Pro signifying they recommended show. Variety season figures are percentages of favorable reviews by critics for entire season, Variety's basis being if they predicted show would be a financial success or not.

17 Shows	CD %	Pros	Cons	Variety 1956-57	'55-56	'54-55
Atkinson, Times	80%	14	3	.291	.490	.607
Kerr, H. Trib	55%	11	6	.229	.394	.354
Chapman, News	95%	16	1	.541	.527	.580
Coleman, Mirror	90%	15	2	.446	.454	.566
Watts, Post	90%	15	2	.404	.541	.426
McClain, J. Am.	80%	14	3	.469	.535	.532
Donnelly, WTS	80%	14	3	.234	.306	.549
(1955 Hawkins)						

" LONDON CALENDAR "

Jun 24- Moscow State Variety Theatre- Streatham Hill
Jun 25- Making of Moo- Royal Court
Jun 27- Less than Kind- Arts
Jul 1- Titus Andronicus- Stoll

" OFF BROADWAY "

CAREER Actor Play $3.45	100 7th Av S. OR 5-1036	3 Pro-Times, Post, WTS
COUNTRY WIFE Renati $3.45	144 Bleecker OR 4-3210	4 Pro-H. Trib, J. Am, WT&S, W. Wear 2 Con- Times, Post
ICEMAN COMETH Circle $3.60	5 Sher Sq OR 5-9437	6 Pro-Times, H. Trib, Mir, J. Am, WT&S, Post
KING CHARLES Downtown $3.45	85 E 4 OR 3-4412	6 Pro-Times, Trib, Post, WTS, Mir, Variety
KALEIDOSCOPE Provincetown$3.45	133 Macdougal GR 7-9894	7 Con- Unanimous panning all dailies
LAND BEYOND G. Mews	141 W 13 CH 2-8931	4 Pro-Times, Post, W. Wear, Variety
PURPLE DUST Cherry Lane $3.85	31 Commerc CH 2-4468	4 Pro-Times, Trib, Post, WTS 2 Con- News, J. Am.
SCHOOL WIVES T. Marquee $3.45	110 E 59 PL 3-2575	4 Pro-H. Trib, News, Post, J. Am. 3 Con- Times, WT&S, Variety
SIMPLY HEAVEN 85th St. $3.85	150 W 85 SU 7 9532	5 Pro-Times, Trib, Post, J. Am. W. Wear 1 Con- WT & S
3 SYNGE PLAYS T. East $2.80	211 E 60 TE 8-8930	5 Pro-Times, Post, Mir, J. Am. WTS 2 Con- Tribune, Variety
3 PENNY OPERA De Lys $4.85	121 Christ. WA 4-8782	3 Pro-Times, H. Tribune, Post

" OUT OF TOWN "

AM. SHAKES FEST. Stratford, Conn$4.85	NY Phone WA 5-1387	OTHELLO--2 Pro- Post, J. Am. 4 Con-Times, Trib, News, WTS
SHOW BOAT Jones Beach $4.40	NY Phone CI 7-7992	7 Pro-Unanimous approval spectacle

" TRYOUT CALENDAR "

Lease on Love-New Hope 7/1
Mousetrap- Dorset- 7/1
Roger the Sixth-Laconia 7/1
Mistress of Inn- New Hope 7/8
Chrysalis-Metford- 7/9
Trouble With Girls- Litchfield 7/15
Back to Methuselah-Coomanesett 7/15

Something Borrowed- Orleans 7/23
Time to Be Rich- East Hampton 7/29

No Laughing Matter-East Hamp. 8/5
Home James- Plymouth 8/5
Saddle Tramps- Fishkill 8/6
Fever for Life-Hyde Park 8/6
Simon and Laura-E. Hamp. 8/12

Will and Way- Northport 8/13
Apple Reddens-Stowe 8/16
2nd Oldest Profession-New Scotld-8/16
Anyone for Love- Spring Lake 8/19
Dekanawida-Naples- 8/31

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July 10, 1957 PLAYGOERS GUIDE chart of CRITICAL DIGEST-139 E47, NYC-EL 5-6894

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This weekly chart of CRITICAL DIGEST, the weekly NYC theatre newsletter digest, presents up-to-date data on current business and critical reception of current Broadway and Off-Broadway shows. Subscribers to CRITICAL DIGEST may write, phone or call for any other specific data or for late reviews.

"C"-Critical- figures refer to percentage of PRO reviews filed by NYC daily reviewers. PRO means show was recommended for entertaining and/or stimulating evening, not if critic predicted if show would be hit or not.

"B"-Business-figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales. "%B" figures refer to percentage of past week's attendance and indicates current availability of tickets. "CAP" figures refer to gross capacity of house. Figures that follow are gross estimates by Variety for past week and previous weeks. All figures are in thousands of dollars. Thus 100% B-Cap $68--$68--$68--means that past week attraction was sell out, capacity of theatre was %68,000, and previous week also was sell-out.

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AUNTIE MAME Broadhurst $5.75	238 W 44 CI 6-6699	100% C- Mostly for R. Russell, 0% C minus her CLOSED VACATION 6/29- 8/5.
BELLS RINGING Shubert $7.50	230 W 44 CI 6-5990	80% C- Show 2 Con-Times, WTS-100% C Judy 100% B- Cap $58--$58 $58 $58 $58 $58 $58
DAMN YANKEES Adelphi $8.05	152 W 54 JU 6-3787	100% C- Unanimous praise musical, cast. 50% B- Cap $50--$26 $30 $33 $31 $29 on 2 for 1.
HAPP. MILLION. Lyceum $5.75	150 W 45 JU 2-3897	60% C- 3 Cons-H. Trib, Post, J. Am. 70% B- Cap $26--$16 $20 $22 $17 $20 $21 $21
HAPPY HUNTING Majestic $8.05	245 W 44 CI 6-0730	100% C- for Merman-10% C-M r, sole pro sho 70% B- Cap $70-$48 $61 $62 $50 $64 $55 $56
HOLE IN HEAD Plymouth $6.25	236 W 45 CI 6-9156	40% C- 3 Pro-Times, Post, J. Am. 55% B- Cap $35--$17 $22 $24 $19 $25 $26 $27
HOTEL PARADISO Miller $6.90	124 W 43 BR 9-3970	100% C- Unanimous B. Lahr, mild script 50% B- Cap $34--$13 $19 $24 $23 $22 $26
LIL ABNER St James $8.05	235 W 44 LA 4-4664	60% C- 3 Con- H. Trib, J. Am. WTS 100% B- Cap $58--$58 $58 $58 $58 $58 $58 $58
LONG DAYS JOURN. Hayes $6.90	230 W 46 CI 6-6380	100% C- Unanimous raves O Neill prize play. CLOSED-VACATION & PARIS 6/29-8/19

" THEATRE CALENDAR "

Beaux Strategem-Downtown 7/9
Merchant of Venice-Stratford 7/10
Ever Since Paradise-Carn Rec. Hall 7/11
4 Horror Plays-Theatre Macabre-7/18

Lewisohn Stadium Concerts
My Fair Lady Excerpts Jul 27
Rodgers & Hammerstein-Aug 3

Much Ado About Nothing- Stratford 8/3

Compulsion- 9/4
New Faces-Broadway 9/5
Evening of T. C. Jones-Golden 9/9
Hedda Gabler- 4th St 9/10
Time Remembered 9/12-
Tevya and His Daughters-Carn Play. 9/16
Cave Dwellers- Bijou 9/23
Gangway! - W. Garden 9/25
Look Back in Anger-Lyceum 9/?

The Strongest-10/2
The Egghead- 10/3
Man in Dog Suit- 10/9
Four Winds- 10/9
Romanoff and Juliet 10/15
Nature's Way- Coronet 10/16

Copper and Brass-Beck 10/17
French Death- 10/22
Honorable Macbeth- 10/28
Square Root Wonderful-National 10/31
Rumple- 10/31
Rise Marlowe-Gate 10/?
Fools Are Passing Thru-Fischer 10/?
Casual Miracle- 10/?
Babylon in Candlelight- 10/?
Nude With Violin- 10/?
Nine O Clck Theatre- 11/4

Soft Touch- 11/6
High and Happy- 11/7
The Rope Dancers- 11/15
La Plume de Ma Tante-Belasco 11/?
Doctor Inspite Self- ANTA 11/?
Jamaica- 11/?
Cut of Ax- 11/?

Miss Isobel- 12/26
Music Man- 12/26

Dark Top of Trees- 12/?
The Rivalry- 1/27/58
Captain's Denim 2/?/58

" TV THEATRE PROGRAMS "

Sept 29- CBS- Crescenda with Rex Harrison-history of US musicals
Nov 17- CBS- Seven Lively Arts- debut
Nov 27- NBC- Annie Get Your Gun with Mary Martin, John Raitt

" CD VIEWS ON CURRENT SHOWS "

PROS: Damn Yankee, Happiest Millionaire, Hotel Paradiso, Long Days Journey, Moon for Misbegotten, Mst Happy Fella, New Girl in Town, Separate Tables, Tunnel of Love.

3 Irish Plays, Iceman Cometh, Simply Heavenly, Purple Dust, in Good King Charles Golden Days.

CONS: Kaleidoscope The Country Wife

GREEN

ROOM

DEPARTMENT

PARK PROBLEMS... Somebody or something is desperately needed to salvage the Theatre Under the Stars program at Central Park's Woolman Memorial Skating Rink, comments, Chapman, News. It needs some showmanship, and quickly. Bob Hope, Sinjin Terrell or 8 vaudeville acts could come to the rescue... Rosalie debut's moral seems to be that anything coming close to the production of a big musical cannot be so casually achieved, adds McClain, Journal American... Chapman, News, had heard that Bob Hope was to be invited to aid, while Walker, News, reported that Miami's Cotton Club revue was to be the next attraction... NY Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court has ruled that Terrell may contest Park Commissioner Moses' right to grant theatre license to Michael Grace and Chris Anderson for a second round.

COLUMN TIPS... Hotel Paradiso closing notice came down and show will stay open, notes Wilson, Post... During summer easier to get tickets for hits on week-ends than during week suggests Sullivan, News... Barbara Hall, Ziegfeld Follies girl winning $$$$ on $64,000 Question, offered lead in touring company of revue, hears Kilgallen. Farrell, World Telegram & Sun, reports she has tried out for Stratford, Conn, Much Ado About Nothing.

DRAMA MAIL BOX... The large numbers of broken seats in the orchestras of Broadway legit houses panned by a C.D. subscriber.

KERR TOUGHEST... For third consecutive season Kerr, Herald Tribune, rated as toughest critic by Variety scoreboard. Ratings, which show percentage of shows for entire season which critics think will be popular and financial success, show that of 48 Broadway shows covered, Kerr okayed only 10. Trade paper adds that the public approved only 14 of 49 shows, with so far only 5 of the 14 paying off their investment.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS... Broadway angels today are not gamblers, defines Chapman, News. Gamblers think they can afford to lose, current angels can't afford to lose--and they know it. Critic will bet that no one, including Meyer Davis and Howard Cullman, has made better than 6% by continually investing in shows... The crybaby drama, now popular, is not an especially appealing form, fears Kerr, Herald Tribune, He hopes such plays only suggest that the creative spirit itself is temporarily dislocated.

BEST PLAYS LIST... Dodd, Mead's "Best Plays of 1956-57", edited by Louis Kronenberger, Time, will contain--- Very Special Baby, Clearing in the Woods, Moon for the Misbegotten, Candide, Long Day's Journey Into Night, Orpheus Descending, Separate Tables, Potting Shed, Waltz of Toreadors, Visit to a Small Planet.

SECOND GUESSES... The American Shakespeare Festival performance of Othello is a coolly wrought performance, more like a "chronicle of small beer" than a "steep-down gulfs of liquid fine", surmises Atkinson, Times... Everything is neatly and skillfully done by a practised hand, but the hand, in this instance, has no grip, comments Kerr, Herald Tribune, on the same production.

INTERVIEW HI-LITES... Shannon Bolin, 32 year old actress who portrays middled aged wife of lead in Damn Yankees, hasn't had an offer of anything but old women parts since taking the role, she told Herridge, Post. Onstage she uses five thicknesses of cotton flannel around her middle to expand her from a size 10 to size 16.

" PROS & CONS BY TMK "

Show Boat is the biggest and best "Off Broadway" show of this season or any season. It is perfect and professional in every department. The ingenuity and imagination of the production staff, the adaptability of the cast and crews, and the fresh ocean breezes at Jones Beach blend into a delightful confection. Guy Lombardo and Robert Moses should stop worrying what to do in the future at the giant outdoor stadium, the public will be more than satisfied with annual productions of the Kern-Hammerstein classic.

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The Country Wife is one of those wordy play of the Restoration that somehow spends the entire time talking about sex, but at the same time remains unsexy. Cast so-so in style except for expert comedy playing by Frances Sternhagen and Arthur Malet.

* *

Othello presented at Stratford, Conn is a lively production physically by an accomplished cast doing a creditable job presenting the Bard's tragedy. Minor criticism is the uneveness of playing between the two leading male characters. But this is not enough to destroy the total effect of a fine evening of theatre at the East Coast's most handsome and comfortable playhouse.

* *

Romeo and Juliet presented at Belvedere Tower area, Central Park by Joseph Papp's NY Summer Shakespeare Festival deserves the rave reviews received. The group, only in its second year of existence, has succeeded in placing NYC in the top ranks of cities presenting summer performances of Shakespeare.

* *

Theatre fans can't help but be disappointed by the announcement that the "Theatre Under the Stars" will present Cab Calloway's revue for the remainder of the summer. As fine an entertainer as Calloway most certainly is, he cannot be considered a substitute for the promised revivals of musicals in the Central Park outdoor theatre site.

* *

Off-Broadway productions this past season outnumbered Broadway productions by about 60 to 49. At least 8 Off-Broadway productions are expected to last through the summer. A major fault of the past Off-Broadway season has been the excess of "vanity" productions. The sponsoring of a poor play and/or actor on Broadway has become an economic impossibility. The increase in Off-Broadway production costs may, we can hope, end such productions Off Broadway also.

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The week-end performance schedule of certain Off Broadway groups has proved profitable. Presenting two evening performances on Saturdays has been a boon to playgoer and producer alike. This should, but probably won't, encourage Broadway producers to experiment with switching curtain times.

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